

I am pleased to note that the love and devotion displayed by Mr. L.J. and Mrs. Melva Jean Halbert throughout their 60 years of marriage has been an inspiration to their nieces and nephews, in-laws, coworkers and all who know them. I extend my congratulations for 60 years and wish them many more.

RECOGNIZING ULAUNDA NUNN AS HURLBURT AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION CHAPTER 398 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR FOR 2013

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2013

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Ulaunda Nunn as the Hurlburt Air Force Association (AFA) Chapter 398 Elementary School Teacher of the Year for 2013. For 16 years, 12 of which spent teaching in Florida, Ms. Nunn has been an inspiration to her students, her colleagues, and the Northwest Florida community. I am honored to recognize her success and achievements.

Following in her grandmother's footsteps and boosted by her words of encouragement and those of her parents, Ms. Nunn immediately fell in love with teaching, when she took a side job as a substitute teacher following college. This passion naturally led her to change courses and pursue a career in education.

Currently a teacher at Bob Sikes Elementary School in Crestview, Florida, Ms. Nunn's passion and dedication has helped propel her students to become engaged and interested in the world of science through STEM education. Ms. Nunn's curriculum incorporates activities like rocket launches and a chopper-drop to analyze trajectories and learn about wings and rotation, respectively. As an "Engineers for America" Lead Teacher, Ms. Nunn is charged with assisting in the development of aerospace and engineering programs for all students and teachers at her school. With the support from the outside community, Ms. Nunn established the "For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology" (FIRST) Lego Robotics Program at Bob Sikes Elementary. In fact, thanks to Ms. Nunn's leadership, her school qualified to compete in the Florida state-level robotics competition in both 2012 and 2013.

Ms. Nunn's commitment to excellence is evidenced by her pursuit of outside opportunities to broaden her own education and experiences in an effort to better serve her students. Ms. Nunn is an active member of myriad organizations, including the Air Force Association, the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, the Okaloosa County School District's Science and Technology committees, and a regular participant at the AFA Hurlburt Chapter's Teacher Workshops.

Northwest Florida has been blessed with an abundance of exemplary educators like Ms. Ulaunda Nunn. She has demonstrated her commitment to the success of each of her young students through her leadership and passion, and her efforts have helped to ensure a strong educational foundation for them, our Nation's future leaders.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Ms. Ulaunda Nunn as the Hurlburt Air Force Association Chapter 398 Elementary School Teacher of the Year for 2013 and thank her for her commitment to service in Northwest Florida. My wife Vicki joins me in congratulating Ms. Nunn, and we wish her all the best for continued success.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF SALVATORE A. CELLUCCI

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2013

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Salvatore A. Cellucci. Mr. Cellucci was an outstanding public servant and a valuable member of our community. He was a loving family man, coming from a large family of distinguished veterans. He truly understood the meaning of service to one's country.

Mr. Cellucci was an early pioneer in the Information Technology field. His keen intellect and expertise enabled our country to benefit from the early days of Electronic Data Processing, which is vital to the protection of our nation. Mr. Cellucci also worked with the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Strategic Air Command, NORAD, the government of Puerto Rico, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. His leadership in the transformational deployment of advanced computer systems enabled government and military leaders to reach critical decisions faster and more effectively than previously thought possible.

Mr. Cellucci's professional accomplishments were only matched by his steadfast commitment to helping those less fortunate in our community. He participated in numerous organizations and activities to forge positive relationships between people of different religious faiths.

Mr. Speaker, Salvatore Cellucci is a role model for all of the people in the first Congressional District of New Jersey. His dedication to our country inspired many to serve our nation with distinction. I rise with the rest of South Jersey to honor Salvatore Cellucci for his outstanding commitment to his community. I offer Mr. Cellucci's family my condolences in their time of mourning; he will surely be missed.

IN HONOR OF TOM RAMSEUR

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2013

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the community service of retiring Stanly County Chamber President, Tom Ramseur.

Mr. Ramseur has served two counties in the 8th Congressional District of North Carolina as Chamber President for more than two decades. He served as President and CEO of the Cabarrus Chamber of Commerce from 1988 until 2001.

Mr. Ramseur then served as President and CEO of the Stanly County Chamber of Commerce from 2006 until his retirement this month.

I had the privilege of working with Mr. Ramseur while I was serving as District Director for Congressman Robin Hayes.

During a time in which Cabarrus County was hit hard by textile and manufacturing job losses, Mr. Ramseur helped bring business and community leaders together to spur the local economy and create jobs.

He recognized the importance of an economic-friendly environment that allows businesses to grow and hire people. The 8th district is fortunate to have hardworking men and women like Mr. Ramseur who are committed to strengthening our economy and bringing jobs home.

I'm proud to have worked with Mr. Ramseur over the years, and I know the folks in both Stanly and Cabarrus Counties are grateful for his service to their communities.

(From the Stanly News and Press, Sept. 18, 2013)

RAMSEUR PREPARES FOR EXIT AT STANLY COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Tom Ramseur is cleaning out his office at the Stanly County Chamber of Commerce and will cede his chair to his successor as he winds down his nearly eight years as the organization's president and CEO.

But he will not be packing up his enthusiasm for the Chamber or for the county it serves.

"The way I got involved in the Chamber several years ago was as a volunteer in Cabarrus County and I knew that side of it," Ramseur said.

He was involved in his family's business, which brought the real-life work experience into the mix.

"We sold our business and I was working for the parent company and I was asked to run the Chamber in Cabarrus County and it appealed to me and I saw both sides of being a volunteer and running the organization," Ramseur said.

His wife, Diane, is a native of Stanly County, which gave him knowledge of the area and he also had known Marianne Bright, who was the former president of the Chamber.

When he came to the Stanly Chamber, the board had just completed a planning retreat and had some goals.

"Chambers are run the same no matter where they are. They are membership-based and we needed to grow our membership," Ramseur said.

"We also, more importantly, needed to grow our sphere of influence because the Chamber needs to be relevant in each community."

Ramseur said that was somewhat of a problem with as many communities and municipalities spread out over such a large area.

"We needed to tell our story and be more of a county-wide chamber," he said.

"We needed to show how we could help people in Misenheimer, Locust, Stanfield and all the others. They needed them to know how we could help and we wanted to help."

He also said governmental affairs is a big part of what the Chamber has done.

"I understood how to work with governmental officials and building relationships and we had to do that," he said.

He said relationships, through no particular one's fault, had not been as good as they should have been with the county commission.

"It just needed to be enhanced," Ramseur said.

He said most people do not understand how the Chamber works.

"We're not funded by the government. We are a nonprofit run by a board of directors,

and the income is primarily through dues and special events," he said.

Ramseur said he can understand why the Chamber may be viewed by some as just a "social club."

"I have tried to eliminate that label," Ramsey said.

"We do have social events, and we have fun, but you might meet somebody who you can talk to about refinancing or other business subjects.

"Networking is important and can't all be done online. They have to get out of their comfort zone."

He mentions the success of the legislative breakfasts, which are designed to help local businesses have quality time with their representatives in Raleigh and Washington.

"We have 200 coming in to those events, and the representatives are telling us the other counties do not have that kind of attendance," Ramsey said.

"Those things happen because the Chamber makes it happen. It's no accident and there's a lot of hard work that goes into promoting those events."

"I also tell people to give us a try for a year. Come to some meetings. Go to some of the seminars we're doing with Stanly Community College. Come to some business after hours. Come to some of our events and you'll meet somebody."

He said the organization has been responsible with its funds and owns its own building and has no debt.

"I'm also proud we have now built a reserve fund and we had a successful membership drive last year with 220 new members," Ramsey said.

One of the programs Ramsey said he is proud of helping to establish is the Career Academy for Educators.

The program brings teachers in to meet with existing businesses and educates them as to what skills are currently needed to supply the county's industries and businesses.

"The problem is many times getting teachers, counselors, parents and students to make realistic decisions. Everybody wants to go to Chapel Hill. Many people don't know how to cope after high school and a four-year degree is not always a ticket to a job," he said.

"That is not to discourage anyone from pursuing that goal. It just may be some would be better prepared by entering the workforce first and this program helps in that regard."

If there was one magic moment during his years directing the Chamber, it happened in March 2009. "We found out Harris Teeter announced it would close its Albemarle location," Ramsey said.

"The manager said he thought the decision was final. I asked what we could do."

What happened is what Ramsey said needs to happen throughout the county when it comes to the economic betterment of the area. Come together.

"Everybody was on the phone with each other and Harris Teeter got more than 700 calls and emails within hours," he said.

"They announced the store would remain open within a few days. That's what happens when everyone works together."

He said there weren't many disappointments, but mentions the prolonged discussions between Alcoa and the county as "not very helpful."

"The Chamber did not take sides on the issue. Alcoa is still an active member of the

Chamber. We have an excellent relationship with the county. But the fact it hung on that long probably did not cast a good image on Stanly County," Ramsey said.

"The only time we ever got covered or noticed was when it had to do with that issue."

He said he was "very pleased when there was a settlement. I commend the two parties for settling that. What it means is we can move on to other issues that can make a difference such as education and recruiting businesses."

As Ramsey leaves his post, he does so with a busy schedule ahead for the next few weeks.

The Chamber will initiate the new class of Leadership Stanly and host its annual Business Expo, which is already successful by the number of participants who have signed to be there.

He will do that while guiding his successor, Kathy Almond, into her new role which begins officially Oct. 1.

Ramsey has no worries about the job Almond will do, taking into account her already being active with the Chamber and a superb board of directors.

"I will never be able to express how much I have appreciated the board and their support in all we've done," he said.

"They are volunteers and yet they are always there and do what needs to be done. With their support and enthusiasm, they have been great to work with.

"We have the best staff with Stephanie Gresham and Winona Vullo who always work hard to make everything we do successful as well as being there to help our members in any way they need us," he said.

His advice to Almond or to anyone else in the post is to keep focused on the main reason the Chamber exists.

"Just help people to find what they need and go the extra mile and everything else will be fine," Ramsey said.

Ramsey has some parting shots as to what he's learned and what the county should learn about the local economy.

"I think you need to keep the personal touch. Call people back. But you can't do everything," he said.

"I said I'd get by and see every member the first year. I found I couldn't. But I still try to communicate as much as possible."

He said he would put a personal note on each yearly fee announcement and one when it was received.

"The Chamber can't be all things to all people. My successor needs to always ask if it is something that is part of what the mission is and what we do," Ramsey said.

He said there are many people in the business of economic development and commends the county for funding a separate economic commission.

"(Economic Development Director) Paul Stratos can do the hard fast economic development. He understands the land use and utilities and you have to have someone doing all of that," he said.

"We shouldn't lose sight of the Convention and Visitors Bureau, where we have more and more people coming through here. People come from all over.

"I have no problem with the cities doing more in economic development on their own part as long as they try to coordinate their efforts."

"I encourage people to work together, but if a group can financially commit to have more work for the good of the county, who is

going to complain? We're going to get more jobs and that's the goal."

Ramsey has received praise from his Chamber colleagues for his leadership of the organization.

"Even during a down economy, under his leadership the Chamber has grown and thrived," Past Chamber Chairman Matt Smith said.

"He has also been very instrumental in making our chamber a strong voice in the community that works hard to bring people together and build a better business environment in Stanly County."

Current Chamber President Bill Lawhon echoed Smith's remarks.

"He has been good for our chamber, working extremely hard to bring our community of businesses together," Lawhon said."

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 3, 2009, the day I took office, the national debt was \$10,627,961,295,930.67.

Today, it is \$16,738,454,664,319.38. We've added \$6,110,493,368,388.71 to our debt in 4 years. This is \$6.1 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a Balanced Budget Amendment. We must stop this unconscionable accumulation of debt.

HONORING THE NON-DENOMINATION HOUSE OF PRAYER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable Christian organization, The Non-Denomination House of Prayer.

The Non-Denomination House of Prayer was founded in 1948 by Pastor Charity Waffer in the historical city of Mound Bayou, Mississippi. Pastor Waffer was the first female pastor in the Mississippi Delta. As a pastoral pioneer she was instrumental in opening doors for women and youths through various church auxiliaries and functions. Her leadership guided many to various freedoms and liberties.

The current overseer is Dr. Earnestine Flowers which over sees other churches in Mississippi with the communities of Duncan, Batesville, Sardis, Oxford and in Chicago, Illinois. The Non-Denomination House of Prayer in the City of Mound Bayou current ministerial leaders are Pastor Willie Joe Flowers, Assistant Pastor Carl Henry, and Minister Martha Sanders. They have increased the church membership and have embarked on renovating and expanding their facilities in order to continue to be a blessing to its members,